adding to said first solution an amount of an anionic surfactant sufficient to disperse said alumina during precipitation and to inhibit clumping of particles during precipitation;

forming a second solution of a tin salt;

adding said second solution to said first solution to form a precipitation solution in which the ion concentration ratio of silver to tin is approximately 2.0 at a temperature appropriate to effect the chemical precipitation of silver;

agitating said precipitation solution for a period of time sufficient to precipitate silver powder agglomerates in which from 30% to 80% of the agglomerates have an agglomerate diameter of less than 25 μm, and in which said agglomerates comprise individual powder particles having a diameter of from 0.2 to 2.0 μm; and

heat treating said silver powder particles in air at a temperature ranging from 450 to 750° C.

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